



Weddings

Saturday 5th October
Julie Gauld and Alan Taylor

Funerals

Tuesday 8th October
Lillian Hay

Ferryhill Parish Church

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**A Kirk for All
at Ferryhill**



Ferryhill Parish News

November 2013

www.ferryhillparishchurch.org



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them.

Photograph courtesy of The Royal British Legion.



The Manse

Dear friends,

This letter is written just after spending some time gathering fallen autumn leaves from the front steps of the manse. We have had a glorious summer, but autumn is most certainly here now. The cycles of life and seasons of the year roll around before we know it. The turn of colour and the rustle of fallen leaves are an annual display of a deciduous tree's natural cycle at the end of its growth season, and in church we celebrated that with the Tree of Thanks everyone decorated at the Harvest service.



That cycle between times of budding and new growth through times of fruitfulness and abundance to times when what was good has finished its role and needs to be cleared away is true of a deciduous tree as it is for other aspects of life, and even church life.

There are times when we need to think about our own lives for it is very easy to keep adding and adding responsibilities and tasks, like a tree being burdened with an ever heavier load, when for our own sakes there are things of which we should consider letting go in order to allow room for something new to bud. Jesus spoke about something similar when he talked about the burden of a yoke placed around our necks. He was referring to the burden of the Jewish law on people, and that he lifted that burden from us, but the point is the same. What burdens are no longer life-giving to us, what can we discard, shaking the leaves from the branches of our lives to give the Spirit of God space to work in our lives. When the leaves fall from the trees we find the light able to shine into places that had previously been shaded. Perhaps that could be the same for our lives also.

Every blessing go with you.



Workshops

Aberdeen Presbytery is holding two Resources for Mission and Training Workshops in November.

The first one is entitled 'Listening to God' and takes place in St Marks Church on Wednesday 6th November from 7.30—9.00pm.

The second workshop is entitled 'Skills and Gifts' and takes place on Wednesday 20th November from 7.30—9.00pm in Holburn West Church.

Come and explore these questions and more:

What is the difference between skills and gifts?

What does the Bible say about spiritual gifts?

Are you using your gifts?

Are you doing what God wants you to do?

To register for either workshop, contact Anne Smith:

e-mail smithanneg@tiscali.co.uk or tel: 318485

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. - JOHN 10:27 NIV

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Church Roof Repairs

On the 2nd October, an inspection of the Church Roof was carried out by representatives of the Property Group, Sholto Humphries of GPA Humphries (Architects) and Graeme Cheyne of Graeme .W.Cheyne (Builders) Ltd. The condition of several areas of the roof gave cause for concern and will require repairs on an urgent basis .

The Architect has prepared a detailed report on the roof condition and the content of this was discussed at the Congregational Board on the 9th October. The Board was in agreement that the repairs to the lead valleys, slating, chimney heads and cement verge haunchings should be carried out as soon as possible.

The estimated costs for these repairs is £10,000. The Board also agreed that, as a result of the roof repairs, items of routine planned building maintenance would be deferred to a future date.

Guild Lunch

Following their dedication service on 17th November, members of The Guild are holding a soup and bread lunch in aid of two Guild projects. Tickets are available from Guild members. Your support will be very much appreciated.

“Heart for Art’ is an innovative new project based in the South Side of Glasgow and provides Creative Art opportunities for people with dementia and their carers. The project provides a forum for people with dementia to express themselves through the medium of art, whilst providing support and information to carers.

“Comfort Rwanda” is working to build a village of 100 homes for survivors of the genocide of 1994. This project brings together perpetrators of the genocide and survivors (mainly widows) of the families they killed, for spiritual and practical support. Comfort Rwanda provides funds to build low-cost houses (£1,000 each) for genocide survivors of these communities whose homes were destroyed and never rebuilt.

Services in November

Sunday 3rd November

11:00 Worship for all ages
Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Sunday Club & Crèche
18:00 Remembrance Book Service

Sunday 10th November

10:50 Worship for all ages.
Remembrance Day Service
Sunday Club & Crèche

Sunday 17th November

11:00 Worship for all ages.
Sunday Club & Crèche
Guild Dedication
18:00 Informal worship in the Memorial Chapel with
Holy Communion

Tuesday 19th November

12:10 Mid-week service

Sunday 24th November

11:00 Worship for all ages
Sunday Club & Crèche

Sunday 1st December

11:00 Worship for all ages
First Sunday in Advent

Care Home Services

Wednesday 6th November

11:00 Cowdray Club

Sunday 24th November

18:00 Maryfield East

Meeting Diary

Wednesday 6th November

19:30 Guild
Arthur McCombie
The Grammar School

Monday 11th November

14:15 Monday Fellowship
Bring and Buy

Thursday 14th November

19:15 Co-ordinating Committee

Wednesday 20th November

19:30 Guild
Lillian Brown
The Guild Projects

Thursday 21st November

19:15 Kirk Session

Monday 25th November

14:15 Monday Fellowship
Music

Advent Prayer Pathway

Last year during the first week of Advent an opportunity to “Pause for Prayer” was provided. This was greatly appreciated by those who participated:

“I realised that I had often enjoyed quiet time in other churches around the world, but never before in Ferryhill. It was a memorable moment when I found that same sense of peace in my own Mither Kirk!”

“Here in the peacefulness, calmness and serenity of our sanctuary ‘take it to the Lord in Prayer.’ During these prayer times that is exactly what I felt—the peace, calm and the serenity of our own place of worship.”

Please join our Advent Prayer Pathway at the start of this Advent, drop in at any time.

Monday 2 December 2013

18:00—19:30

Church Sanctuary

Christmas Fair

Saturday 30th November is the date for this year’s Christmas Fair. Doors open at 2pm, so get there early to enjoy all the usual festive stalls in the Foyer and Atrium, and afternoon teas with tempting treats served in the Hall. The Guides will be joining us again for the afternoon with their chocolate tombola and face painting.

Donations to the stalls will, of course, be required and gratefully accepted: crafts and gifts, baking and sweets, plants, jars and bottles for bottle stall and raffle prizes etc. These can be handed in the day before, or on the morning of the event.

Posters around the Church and parish will be on display soon as well as flyers in the Coffee Shop. We look forward to welcoming you on the 30th November and hope for a large turn-out and reasonable weather!

Profits from the Fair this year will go to the Manse Appeal Fund.

Christmas Cards

There’s nothing like celebrating the real meaning of Christmas by opening a well chosen card from a dear friend or family member.

By choosing our charity Christmas Cards you will directly contribute to the work of **Traidcraft, CAFOD, SCIAF and Christian Aid** to help support some of the world’s poorest communities.

The Fairtrade stall has samples of each Christmas card in the catalogue so you can see before you buy.

Stir Up Sunday

The last Sunday before advent is when traditionally people make their Christmas Cakes and Puddings so that they can mature over the next few weeks. This year it falls on the 24th November. As we bake and later enjoy a Christmas cake or pudding, full of rich fruit and delicious spices, let’s bring blessings to those who need justice by choosing Fairtrade ingredients and make it more than just a Christmas cake, but a way of sharing hope, joy, peace and love with some of the poor of the world.

You can collect a recipe at the Fairtrade Stall as well as buying your dried fruit and sugar during the month of November. If you prefer to buy your Christmas cake or pudding ready made, Traidcraft can supply these too. On 24th November you can sample one of Traidcraft’s delicious fruit cakes at the Fairtrade Stall.

